

DOC/5ER

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3.5(c)

BRIEF
#199-74

~~Secret~~

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRIEF 199-74.4

NR

2. //ARGENTINA: THE ARMED FORCES ARE LEANING TOWARD A MORE ACTIVE ROLE AS A POWER BROKER IN ARGENTINE POLITICS.

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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INCREASING POLITICAL ACTIVITY BY SOME MILITARY LEADERS AND THE CONTINUING SUCCESS OF THE ARMY-SUPPORTED COUNTERTERRORIST CAMPAIGN ARE THE MAJOR REASONS FOR THIS.//

//THE MILITARY IS STILL SMARTING FROM THE UNPOPULARITY THAT LED THE LANUSSE REGIME TO TURN POWER BACK TO CIVILIANS IN 1973. A COUP IS OUT OF THE QUESTION, BUT THE ARMY REPORTEDLY IS RE-EVALUATING ITS ROLE IN THE GOVERNMENT.//

//PRESIDENT PERON HAS GRADUALLY BECOME MORE ACCEPTABLE TO MILITARY LEADERS, BUT THEY ARE GROWING INCREASINGLY CRITICAL OF THE ROLE OF POWERFUL SOCIAL WELFARE MINISTER LOPEZ REGA, WHO IS MRS. PERON'S PRIVATE SECRETARY AND MENTOR IN ADDITION.//

//RECENT ACTIONS ATTRIBUTED TO LOPEZ REGA HAVE LED SOME OFFICERS TO QUESTION HIS SANITY. THESE CRITICS CONTEND THAT MRS. PERON CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT HIM, PROVIDING SHE HAS THE ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE MILITARY AND LABOR.//

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

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//THE TERRORISTS ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE. THEIR ASSASSINATIONS OF ARMY OFFICERS HAVE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED THEIR POPULAR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGED MAXIMUM EFFORTS BY SECURITY FORCES.//

//REPORTEDLY, THE TERRORISTS NOW BELIEVE THAT DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS THEY WILL HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON REVITALIZING THEIR ORGANIZATION AND INFILTRATING THE LABOR MOVEMENT. THEY ARE STILL CAPABLE OF ISOLATED ACTS, SUCH AS THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE FEDERAL POLICE CHIEF ON DECEMBER 23. ~~SECRET~~

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SDO

JOHN PEREIRA

DATE: 30 DECEMBER 1974
 ORIG:
 UNIT:
 EXT:

3.5(c)